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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/954,796	09/10/2001	Brian J. Brown	10010052 -1	8188

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EXAMINER

SALL, EL HADJI MALICK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/954,796

Applicant(s)

BROWN ET AL.

Examiner

El Hadji M Sall

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 January 1936.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/26/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2157

1. DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the application filed on September 9, 2001. Claims 1 - 36 are pending. Claims 1 - 36 represent business machine network terminal and business machine network information management system.

2. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12 and 14-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Parthesarathy et al. (referred to as hereafter Pat) U.S. 6,353,926.

Pat teaches the invention as claimed including software update notification (see abstract).

As to claim 1, Pat teaches a method for distributing software, comprising the steps of:

querying a user as to the needs of the user (column 11, lines 11-12, Pat discloses querying the user to determine whether the user desires to load the new software update);

receiving user responses to the query (column 11, lines 13-14, Pat discloses the installed software is performed when, in response to the querying step);

characterizing the use of the user based upon the user responses (column 11, lines 14-15, Pat discloses the user indicates a desire to load the new software update); and

providing software programs that may be beneficial to the user based upon the characterization of the use (column 2, lines 17-21, Pat discloses when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer...).

As to claim 3, Pat teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying a user comprises querying the user as to how the user plans to use a peripheral device (column 3, lines 39-52, Pat discloses a user may enter commands and information into the personal computer 20 through input devices such as a keyboard 40 and a pointing device 42... In addition to the monitor, personal computers typically include other peripheral output devices (not shown), such as speakers and printers).

As to claim 4, Pat teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying a user comprises querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 5, Pat teaches method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving user selections in response to the provided software programs (abstract, Pat discloses... when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software

Art Unit: 2157

update to the user's computer and sends notifications such as email or gleaming the icon to indicate that a new software update is now available. Also, the next time the user launches the application through the shortcut (.lnk file), the shell automatically displays the update notification information to the user; column 4, lines 16-19, Pat discloses the application program is a set of software that performs a task desired by the user, making use of computer resources made available through the operating system).

As to claim 7, Pat teaches the method of claim 5, further comprising the step of initiating downloading of the selected software programs to a computing device of the user (column 1, lines 35-40, Pat discloses because different types of computer hardware and operating systems can connect to a common network, software, software distributed over the network can be made to work across platforms or intelligent so that only the correct version of platform-specific software is pushed down to the user).

As to claim 8, Pat teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the software programs are downloaded from a storage medium read by the computing device (column 2, lines 63-65, Pat discloses in a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote memory storage devices).

As to claim 9, Pat teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the software programs are downloaded to the computing device from a remote source via a network (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 10, Pat teaches system for distributing software, comprising:

Art Unit: 2157

means for querying a user as to the needs of the user (column 11, lines 11-12, Pat discloses querying the user to determine whether the user desires to load the new software update);

means for receiving user responses to the query (column 11, lines 13-14, Pat discloses the installed software is performed when, in response to the querying step);

means for characterizing the use of the user based upon the user responses (column 11, lines 14-15, Pat discloses the user indicates a desire to load the new software update); and

means for providing software programs that may be beneficial to the user based upon the characterization of the use (column 2, lines 17-21, Pat discloses when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer...).

As to claim 11, Pat teaches the system of claim 10, wherein the means for querying the user comprise means for querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 12, Pat teaches the system of claim 10, further comprising means for receiving user selections in response to the provided software programs (abstract, Pat discloses...when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer and sends notifications such as email or gleaming the icon to indicate that a new software update is now available. Also, the next time the user launches the application through the shortcut (.lnk file), the shell automatically displays the update notification information to the user; column 4, lines 16-19, Pat discloses the application program is a set of software that performs a task desired by the user, making use of computer resources made available through the operating system).

As to claim 14, Pat teaches the system of claim 12, further comprising means for initiating downloading of the selected software programs to a computing device of the user (column 1, lines 35-40, Pat discloses because different types of computer hardware and operating systems can connect to a common network, software, software distributed over the network can be made to work across platforms or intelligent so that only the correct version of platform-specific software is pushed down to the user).

As to claim 15, Pat teaches the system of claim 13, wherein the means for initiating downloading comprise means for initiating downloading from a storage medium read by the computing device (column 2, lines 63-65, Pat discloses in a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote memory storage devices).

As to claim 16, Pat teaches the system of claim 13, wherein the means for initiating downloading comprise means for initiating downloading from a remote source via a network (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 17, Pat teaches a software program stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising:

logic configured to query a user as to the needs of the user (column 11, lines 11-12, Pat discloses querying the user to determine whether the user desires to load the new software update);

logic configured to receive user responses to the query (column 11, lines 13-14, Pat discloses the installed software is performed when, in response to the querying step);

Art Unit: 2157

logic configured to characterize the use of the user based upon the user responses (column 11, lines 14-15, Pat discloses the user indicates a desire to load the new software update); and

logic configured to provide software programs that may be beneficial to the user based upon the characterization of the use (column 2, lines 17-21, Pat discloses when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer...).

As to claim 18, Pat teaches the software program of claim 17, further comprising logic configured to receive user selections in response to the provided software programs (abstract, Pat discloses...when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer and sends notifications such as email or gleaming the icon to indicate that a new software update is now available. Also, the next time the user launches the application through the shortcut (.lnk file), the shell automatically displays the update notification information to the user; column 4, lines 16-19, Pat discloses the application program is a set of software that performs a task desired by the user, making use of computer resources made available through the operating system).

As to claim 20, Pat teaches the software program of claim 17, further comprising logic configured to initiate downloading of the selected software programs to a computing device of the user (column 1, lines 35-40, Pat discloses because different types of computer hardware and operating systems can connect to a common network, software, software distributed over the network can be made to work across platforms or intelligent so that only the correct version of platform-specific software is pushed down to the user).

As to claim 21, Pat teaches the method for distributing software for a peripheral device, comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 2157

querying a user as to what the peripheral device may be used for (column 11, lines 11-12, Pat discloses querying the user to determine whether the user desires to load the new software update);

receiving responses from the user (column 11, lines 13-14, Pat discloses the installed software is performed when, in response to the querying step); and

providing software programs for the peripheral device based upon the user responses (column 2, lines 17-21, Pat discloses when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer...).

As to claim 22, Pat teaches the method of claim 21, wherein the step of querying a user comprises querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 23, Pat teaches the method of claim 21, further comprising the step of initiating downloading of selected software programs to a computing device of the user (column 1, lines 35-40, Pat discloses because different types of computer hardware and operating systems can connect to a common network, software, software distributed over the network can be made to work across platforms or intelligent so that only the correct version of platform-specific software is pushed down to the user).

As to claim 24, Pat teaches the method of claim 21, wherein the software programs are downloaded to the computing device from a remote source via a network (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

Art Unit: 2157

As to claim 25, Pat teaches a method for distributing software, comprising the steps of:

querying a user as to what the users wants to accomplish (column 11, lines 11-12, Pat discloses querying the user to determine whether the user desires to load the new software update);

receiving responses from the user (column 11, lines 13-14, Pat discloses the installed software is performed when, in response to the querying step); and

providing software programs based upon the user responses (column 2, lines 17-21, Pat discloses when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer...).

As to claim 26, Pat teaches the method of claim 25, wherein the step of querying a user comprises querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 27, Pat teaches the method of claim 25, further comprising the step of initiating downloading of selected software programs to a computing device of the user (column 1, lines 35-40, Pat discloses because different types of computer hardware and operating systems can connect to a common network, software, software distributed over the network can be made to work across platforms or intelligent so that only the correct version of platform-specific software is pushed down to the user).

As to claim 28, Pat teaches the method of claim 25, wherein the software programs are downloaded to a computing device from a remote source via a network (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 29, Pat teaches a method for distributing software, comprising the steps of:

querying a user as to the needs of the user (column 11, lines 11-12, Pat discloses querying the user to determine whether the user desires to load the new software update);

receiving responses from the user (column 11, lines 13-14, Pat discloses the installed software is performed when, in response to the querying step); and

suggesting software programs based upon the user responses (column 2, lines 17-21, Pat discloses when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer...).

As to claim 30, Pat teaches the method of claim 29, wherein the step of querying a user comprises querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 31, Pat teaches the method of claim 29, further comprising the step of initiating downloading of selected software programs to a computing device of the user (column 1, lines 35-40, Pat discloses because different types of computer hardware and operating systems can connect to a common network, software, software distributed over the network can be made to work across platforms or intelligent so that only the correct version of platform-specific software is pushed down to the user).

As to claim 32, Pat teaches the method of claim 29, wherein the software programs are downloaded to a computing device from a remote source via a network (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software

Art Unit: 2157

by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 33, Pat teaches a method for distributing software, comprising the steps of:

determining tasks a user wishes to accomplish (column 11, lines 11-12, Pat discloses querying the user to determine whether the user desires to load the new software update);

receiving responses from the user (column 11, lines 13-14, Pat discloses the installed software is performed when, in response to the querying step); and

installing software programs based upon the user responses (column 2, lines 17-21, Pat discloses when a new update is detected, the software channel delivers the software update to the user's computer...).

As to claim 34, Pat teaches the method of claim 33, wherein the step of querying a user comprises querying the user via a web site accessible on the Internet (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

As to claim 35, Pat teaches the method of claim 33, further comprising the step of initiating downloading of selected software programs to a computing device of the user (column 1, lines 35-40, Pat discloses because different types of computer hardware and operating systems can connect to a common network, software, software distributed over the network can be made to work across platforms or intelligent so that only the correct version of platform-specific software is pushed down to the user).

Art Unit: 2157

As to claim 36, Pat teaches the method of claim 33, wherein the software programs are downloaded to a computing device from a remote source via a network (column 1, lines 11-14, Pat discloses more and more individuals are acquiring software by downloading it from remote server computers connected to the client computers through the Internet).

4. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Pat U.S. 6,353,926 in view of Bradford U.S. 6,678,679.

Pat teaches the invention substantially as claimed including software update notification (see abstract).

As to claim 2, Pat teaches the method of claim 1.

Pat fails to teach the step of querying a user comprises posing at least one multiple choice question to the user.

However, Bradford teaches method and system for facilitating the refinement of data queries. Bradford teaches the step of querying a user comprises posing at least one multiple choice question to the user (column 13, lines 43-45, Bradford discloses the word under consideration may be incorporated into a question that is

Art Unit: 2157

directly asked of the user; column 16, lines 52-53, Bradford discloses the user is presented with specific questions to refine the query).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Pat in view of Bradford to provide the step of querying a user comprises posing at least one multiple choice question to the user. One would be motivated to do so to allow user feedback regarding relevancy of retrieved data (abstract).

6. Claims 6 and 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pat U.S. 6,353,926.

Pat teaches the invention substantially as claimed including software update notification (see abstract).

As to claim 6, Pat teaches the method of claim 5.

Pat fails to teach the claim limitation of suggesting an alternative selection after receiving a user selection that identifies a software program the user already possesses.

However, "Official Notice" is taken that the concept and advantages of suggesting an alternative selection after receiving a user selection that identifies a software program the user already possesses is old and well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Pat by specifying alternate selection if the user already possesses the update software program. One would be motivated to do so to allow the proper software update.

As to claim 13, Pat teaches the system of claim 12.

Pat fails to teach the claim limitation of suggesting an alternative selection after receiving a user selection that identifies a software program the user already possesses.

Art Unit: 2157

However, "Official Notice" is taken that the concept and advantages of suggesting an alternative selection after receiving a user selection that identifies a software program the user already possesses is old and well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Pat by specifying alternate selection if the user already possesses the update software program. One would be motivated to do so to allow the proper software update.

As to claim 19, Pat teaches the system of claim 18.

Pat fails to teach the claim limitation of suggesting an alternative selection after receiving a user selection that identifies a software program the user already possesses.

However, "Official Notice" is taken that the concept and advantages of suggesting an alternative selection after receiving a user selection that identifies a software program the user already possesses is old and well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Pat by specifying alternate selection if the user already possesses the update software program. One would be motivated to do so to allow the proper software update.

7. Conclusion

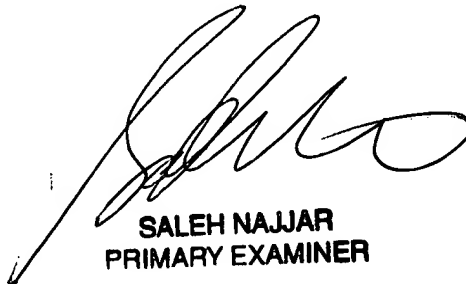
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to El Hadji M Sall whose telephone number is 571-272-4010. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-4010.

Art Unit: 2157

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

El Hadji Sall
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 2157



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER